



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia*

*Paul J. McNulty  
United States Attorney*

*World Trade Center 757/441-6331  
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street  
Norfolk, Va. 23510*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

**For Further Information Contact:  
Deanna Warren (757) 441-6331**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the arrest and dismantling of two groups of individuals involved in the long-term production and distribution of methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine, also known as "Ice," in the Tidewater area. The two groups were involved in producing methamphetamine in at least three clandestine labs: two of which were located in the city of Chesapeake, Virginia, and one significant lab located on a piece of property that straddles the Virginia/North Carolina border. One group primarily used the "red phosphorus" method of producing methamphetamine, while the second group used both the "anhydrous ammonia" and "red phosphorus" method of production. Both methods involve the use and combination of potentially explosive chemicals.

On May 9, 2005, after a two-year investigation that involved the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Special Investigations Section of the Chesapeake Police Department, and the Norfolk and Virginia Beach Police Departments, a federal Magistrate Judge in Norfolk, Virginia, issued two criminal complaints, five arrest warrants, and three search warrants under seal in two cases that both involve fully-functional methamphetamine labs. John D. Hennessy, of Norfolk Virginia, and Bryon E. Morris of Chesapeake, Virginia, are charged in one complaint with conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Hennessy is also charged with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possession of an illegal .22 caliber silencer. The maximum penalty faced by both Hennessy and Morris is life in prison, with a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years and a \$4,000,000 fine. The firearm charge carries a mandatory consecutive five year term. In the second complaint, Larry S. Agnor, Robert J. Agnor, and Lisa Marie Hastings are charged with conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Larry S. Agnor is also charged with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possession of firearms as an illegal user of drugs. The maximum penalty faced by all

-more-

members of the alleged conspiracy is life in prison, with a mandatory minimum sentence of ten

years and a \$4,000,000 fine.

In the early morning hours of May 17, 2005, agents of DEA, ATF, FBI, the Chesapeake and Norfolk Police Departments, and the DEA Clandestine Laboratory Entry Team (CLET) executed search warrants at three locations, and arrested members of each organization. Specifically, Robert J. Agnor was arrested in Chesapeake, Virginia. Bryon Morris was arrested in the South Norfolk section of Chesapeake and John D. Hennessy was arrested in Norfolk. Warrants are still outstanding for Larry S. Agnor, and Lisa Marie Hastings. During execution of the search warrant at Hennessy's residence, a non-operational methamphetamine lab was discovered. The DEA CLET and Norfolk police recovered muriatic acid, ephedrine tablets, toluene, 5 bottles of anhydrous ether, a cylinder of anhydrous ammonia, and lithium batteries. These chemicals constitute all of the ingredients necessary to produce methamphetamine using the anhydrous ammonia method.

These cases stemmed from evidence recovered pursuant to six search warrants that were executed between September 2003 and October 2004 at various locations in Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Moyock, North Carolina. While there is some overlap of individuals who bought and/or received methamphetamine from these two groups, they have been charged separately at this stage.

The North Carolina search warrant, executed on March 18, 2004, revealed a significant, fully functional clandestine methamphetamine laboratory located on 19 acres of rural property owned by William H. ("Herbie") Dorsett, Jr., who recently died in Chesapeake, Virginia on April 19, 2005. The lab, which had been used to produce 2-3 ounces of methamphetamine every other week, was disassembled and deactivated by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations clan-lab team and the CLET. The team recovered approximately 336 items of evidence at the lab site, including large amounts of chemicals, precursors, cleaning materials, glassware, and storage vessels consistent with relatively high-quality production of methamphetamine using both the "red phosphorus" and "anhydrous ammonia" methods.

Another clandestine laboratory was located on September 29, 2003, pursuant to a search warrant executed on property belonging to Larry S. Agnor, in Chesapeake, Virginia. At that location, Chesapeake Police, DEA, and ATF agents recovered, among other things, 66 firearms, 4,002 rounds of ammunition, and a fully functional laboratory capable of producing methamphetamine primarily using the red-phosphorus method. The DEA CLET disassembled the laboratory and recovered, among other things, methamphetamine, red phosphorus, camp fuel, toluene, hydrogen peroxide, rock salt, muriatic acid, hydrogen gas generators, pure ephedrine, digital scales, packaging materials, and approximately 736 matchbooks, matchbook covers, and striker pads.

-more-

The production and distribution of methamphetamine appears to be a growing problem in the Tidewater area, which is borne out by numerous local arrests and the recent dismantling of

four smaller meth labs: two in Virginia Beach, one in Chesapeake, and one in Norfolk – all within the last three months. The investigation and apprehension of individuals responsible for the production and distribution of methamphetamine pose special challenges to both local and federal law enforcement. According to federal and local law enforcement, there appears to be a certain social bond amongst methamphetamine producers and users that is atypical in other drug cases in the Tidewater area. This demographic may change in the future, but currently it appears that most of the local meth producers use the drug themselves, and many of the users and/or customers gravitate in a tight social circle that revolves around parties and thereby, introduction to whoever is “cooking” meth at any given time. In contrast, the typical relationship between a crack cocaine user and street-dealer is generally one of anonymity. This peculiarity makes investigation and infiltration of a methamphetamine ring generally more difficult for law enforcement.

Mr. McNulty stated: “These arrests are further evidence that the menacing presence of methamphetamine is on the rise in the Tidewater area. Law enforcement agencies are teamed up to stop the spread of this destructive drug.”

Assistant United States Attorney Sherrie S. Capotosto is prosecuting this case.

(It should be noted that all individuals charged are innocent until proven guilty.)

# # #